Recruitment in Defence Forces from AP

802. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to raise additional recruits from the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that recruitment to defence forces is less from Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) what are the details of steps proposed to recruit qualified youths from Andhra Pradesh into the defence forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Regular rallies are being organised in the State for recruitment to the Army.

Pay parity of Defence scientists

803. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether defence scientists are unionising themselves to fight for their demands for pay parity; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to resolve their demands and settle the matter amicably?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Capacity of Jabalpur Vehicle Factory

804. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the production capacity of vehicle factory at Jabalpur;

(b) whether the factory achieved its maximum capacity of production;

(c) if so, the details regarding production during the last five years;

(d) whether Government took decision for direct placement of orders with M/s Telco and M/s Ashok Leyland for vehicles for Army; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Vechicle Factory, Jabalpur (VFJ) set up in late 60s had a capacity to manufacture 9000 military vehicles in the payload categories of 3 Ton, 1 Ton and 0.25 Ton. The production achievement in last 4 years ending 1996-97 is as follows:—

Year	Vehicles supplied based on target/indent availability
1993-94	3850 (Shaktiman + Vahan 1 Ton + Jonga)
1994-95	3458 (Shaktiman + Vahan 1 Ton + Jonga)
1995-96	3050 (Shaktiman + Jonga)
1996-97	3192 (Shaktiman + Jonga)

Due to the changed requirement, Army have decided to procure new generation of transport vehicles in the payload category of 5/7.5 Ton & 2.5 Ton. VFJ did not have the technology to manufacture such vehicles and therefore entered into technology collaboration with M/s Ashok Leyland & M/s Telco in August/September 1998 to produce such vehicles. As per phased manufacturing programme both these vehicles are being assembled by obtaining SKD kits from the original manufacturers. Accordingly in 1997-98, in addition to Shaktiman & Jonga, VFJ also produced 5/7.5 and 2.5 Ton vehicles, the total being 3073 Vehicles.

In a period of 3 years VFJ is expected to absorb technology and produce these vehicles in-house by which time the production capacity of vehicles would also be firmed up.

since Army had huge deficiency of vehicles in 2.5 Ton and 5/7.5 Ton category vehicles, it has been decided to place direct orders on M/s Telco and M/s Ashok Leyland also, for these vehicles, to reduce the deficiency.

National Security Council

805. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special Committee was set up to study and recommend establishment of a National Security Council;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Committee submitted its report, but its recommendations were not accepted; and

(c) what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) On April 14, 1998, Government constituted a Task Force with Shri K.C. Pant as its Chairman and Shri Jaswant Singh, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as member and Air Cmde. Jasjit Singh, Director (IDSA) as Convenor to work out the constitution, role and functions of the proposed National Security Council. The Task Force submitted its report to the Government on June 25, 1998.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Task Force were taken into consideration while setting up the NSC.

Interception of India's defence signals

806. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attempts by a foreign power to intercept and eavesdrop on the secret radio signals of Indian defence and intelligence agencies have been reported;

(b) if so, whether identity of the interceptor has been established; and

(c) the precautions being taken to maintain secrecy of the sensitive communications?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Government is aware that attempts are made by outside powers to intercept Defence and other official communications.

(c) All precautions are taken to maintain the confidentiality of sensitive communications. It would not be in the interest of national security to disclose those details.

Purchase of Advanced Jet Trainer

807. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high rate of crashes in the Indian Air Force is attributed to the lack of Advanced Jet Trainer;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not approving the proposals for the purchase of AJT which has been pending for the last fifteen years; and

(c) by when this proposal is likely to be approved and by when AJT is likely to be added?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. The lack of an AJT has been identified as one of the causes for the high rate of crashes in the IAF.

(b) Discussions have been held with various manufacturers. All the available options are being evaluated.

(c) The final decision on the selection of the aircraft will be taken after complete examination of all the options.